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Honorable Arthur V. Watkins
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Watkins:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 4 February 1956 inquiring as to the policy of the Central Intelligence Agency with respect to the employment of physically handicapped persons.

It is the policy of this Agency to employ any interested and qualified individual for whom a suitable position is available. The fact that an individual is physically handicapped is not, per se, a basis for employing or failing to employ him. The medical standards applied in determining the eligibility of an individual for employment are tailored to the requirements of the particular position under consideration.

I am sure you will understand that certain of our positions require individuals who are physically qualified to live or work in areas where health conditions are hazardous. Thus, there are occasions when we must reject a physically handicapped person who may be physically qualified to perform the particular duties contemplated for him but who is not physically qualified to perform those duties in the environment required. You indicate that you are particularly interested in the application of one policy to persons suffering from epileptic seizures. The comments made above apply to such individuals as well as to those suffering from other physical handicaps.

Your interest in this subject is appreciated. You may be assured that the practices of this Agency are fully in accord with the announced policies of the Federal Government in this connection.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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SUBJECT: Letter to Senator Arthur V. Watkins re. employment of physically handicapped.

STATINTL

Concur [redacted]
Acting Deputy Director
Support

Concur /s/ Norman S. Paul
Legislative Counsel

Originator [redacted]
Director of Personnel

STATINTL OP [redacted] (9February 1956)

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